

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 04028 181724Z
ACTION IO-14

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NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0426
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 4028

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM ML
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT REACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINA-
TION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978

REF: STATE 204786

1. I DISCUSSED REFTTEL AND LEFT AN AIDE-MEMOIRE IN FRENCH AS TRANS-
MITTED IN STATE 207657 WITH DEYDOU TRAORE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, ON AUGUST 17.

2. TRAORE LISTENED POLITELY, BUT MALI DOES NOT SHARE OUR POSITION
ON THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE AND PROBABLY NOTHING SHORT OF CONCRETE
PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL INDUCE A
CHANGE IN ITS PERCEPTION\$THE SECRETARY GENERAL STATED THAT MALI
AND OTHERS VOTED FOR THE ZIONISM-RACISM RESOLUTION IN 1975, NOT, AS
MANY CHARGE, IN AUTOMATIC ACCEPTANCE OF ANYTHING PUT OUT BY THE
ARABS, BUT RATHER BECAUSE THE ARGUMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION'S
SPONSORS WAS SUPERIOR -- AT A TIME WHEN THE THIRD WORLD WAS
ESPECIALLY FRUSTRATED BY ISRAEL'S "MONOLITHIC INTRANSIGENCE." IN
TRAORE'S VIEW, THOSE ON ISRAEL'S SIDE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO REFUTE
THE SUBSTANCE OF THE Z-R SPONSORS' POINTS BUT INSTEAD FELL BACK
ON "POLITICAL" AND "EMOTIONAL" STATEMENTS. THE SECRETARY GENERAL
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PAGE 02 BAMA KO 04028 181724Z

REFERRED TO THE "HORRIBLE SUFFERING" OF THE JEWS IN WORLD WAR II
BUT HE ASSERTED THAT NOW THE ISRAELIS WERE IN THEIR TURN CERTAINLY
DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THE ARABS IN AREAS UNDER THEIR CONTROL.
MALI, HE SAID, REGARDED ANY KIND OF DISCRIMINATION AS "A FORM OF
RACISM."

3. OUR CONVERSATION REPEATEDLY VEERED OFF TMB THE BASIC MIDDLE

EAST QUESTION, THE SECRETARY GENERAL INSISTING THAT ISRAEL OWED EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT SOME GESTURE AND THEN CONCEDING THAT PROSPECTS FOR MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION WERE CURRENTLY LOOKING SOMEWHAT BETTER.

4. COMMENT: I WOULD NOT EXPECT MALI TO TAKE THE LEAD IN ANY ZIONISM-RACISM EFFORT, NOR, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD I EXPECT ANY HELPFUL INSTRUCTIONS TO BE SENT TO GENEVA FROM HERE. MALI IS TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE WORLD CONFERENCMSBY ITS AMBASSADOR TO PARIS. FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE EC-9, MIGHT WISH TO LOBBY WITH HIM ON THE MATTER IN GENEVA.
BYRNE

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